

APPENDIX A
SCOPING LETTERS

SCOPING LETTER DISTRIBUTION LIST

Mr. Eric Verwers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CESWF-PM-INS
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Mr. Rob D. Lawrence
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
Office of Planning and Coordination
(6EN-XP)
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Mr. F. Lawrence Oaks
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 79843

Mr. Dan Malanchuk
Regulatory Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 6096
Ft. Bliss, TX 79906

Mr. David C. Fredrick
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Austin Ecological Services Office
10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200
Austin, TX 78758

Ms. Renee Fields
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744-3291

Mr. Archie Clouse
Texas Natural Resource Conservation
Commission
401 E. Franklin Ave., Suite 560
El Paso, TX 79901-1206

The Franklin Mountain Wilderness
Coalition
c/o Mr. Stan Stack
3421 Montridge Court
El Paso, TX 79904

Trinity Christian Lutheran Church
3800 Hondo Pass Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

Ms. Maribel P. Chavez
District Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation-
El Paso District
13301 Gateway Boulevard West
El Paso, TX 79928

City of El Paso
Planning Division
#2 Civic Center Plaza, 8th Floor
El Paso, TX 79901-1196

Governor Albert Alvidrez
Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo
P.O. Box 17579-Ysleta Station
El Paso, TX 79917

Mr. Rick Quezada
Cultural Resources Coordinator
Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo
P.O. Box 17579-Ysleta Station
El Paso, TX 79917

Mr. Antonio Garcia
Natural Resource Manager
Natural Resource Conservation
Service
11930 Vista del Sol, Suite B
El Paso TX 79936

Mr. Gilberto Anzaldua
Superintendent
El Paso Public Schools
P.O. Box 20100
El Paso, TX 79998

Mr. Steve Smith
Dean of Students
El Paso Community College
Transmountain Campus
P.O. Box 20500
El Paso, TX 79998

Ms. Joyce Ritchey
Dean of Students
El Paso Community College
Transmountain Campus
P.O. Box 20500
El Paso, TX 79998

Ms. Marta Giner
El Paso Police
Planning and Research Department
911 North Raynor
El Paso, TX 79903

County of El Paso
716 Texas Avenue
El Paso, TX 79901

Mr. John Barrera
NEPA Coordinator
Directorate of Environment
USA ADC CEN FB
Bldg. 264
Ft. Bliss, TX 79916

John C. White
Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue
P.O. Box 1316
Santa Teresa, NM 88008

Jeff Kaake
El Paso Archaeological Society
5832 Macaw
El Paso, TX 79924

Jack Makepeace
El Paso Cactus and Rock Club
7237 Orizaba
El Paso, TX 79912

Sarah Wood
El Paso Native Plant Society
5649 Cortina
El Paso, TX 79912

Laurence Gibson
El Paso Sierra Club
3120 Red Sails
El Paso, TX 79936

Betty Fisbeck
El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society
613 W. Sunset
El Paso, TX 79922

Wesley Leonard
El Paso Wilderness Preservation
Commission
P.O. Box 221211
El Paso, TX 79913

Tina Baron
El Paso Women's Political Caucus
716 Brisa del Mar
El Paso, TX 79912

Bruce Thompson
Friends of the Franklins
8710 Marble
El Paso, TX 79904

Geri Kaigh
League of Women Voters of El Paso
708 Camino Real
El Paso, TX 79922

Joan Duncan
Mountain Park Community Association
3120 Devils Tower
El Paso, TX 79904

Wally Sheid
Photography Enthusiasts of El Paso
4605 Cumberland Cir.
El Paso, TX 79903

Marianne Thaeler
Southern New Mexico Group of the
Sierra Club
2015 Huntington
Las Cruces, NM 88011

Dr. Bret Ruby
Archaeologist
Directorate of Environment
USA ADC CEN FB
Bldg. 264
Ft. Bliss, TX 79916

(This page intentionally left blank.)

SAMPLE SCOPING LETTER

24 October 2001

«Title» «FirstName» «LastName»

«JobTitle»

«Company»

«Address1»

«Address2»

«City», «State» «PostalCode»

Dear «Title» «LastName»

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) in cooperation with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District (Corps) is preparing an Environmental Assessment on behalf of the United States (U.S.) Border Patrol for the construction and operation of a Border Patrol Station and future Sector Headquarters in El Paso, Texas. The proposed site for the station is located on 40 acres in the southeast corner of Castner Range, Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas. This portion of the range would be transferred from the Department of Defense to the Department of the Interior. Two alternative sites, currently owned by the City of El Paso's Public Service Board (PSB), are being evaluated as part of this Environmental Assessment effort. The locations of these sites are shown on the attached maps.

The Environmental Assessment will be prepared as a means to analyze the potential environmental effects that may result from the construction and operation of a new Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters. As part of the Environmental Assessment process, the U.S. Border Patrol is initiating a scoping process as outlined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The goal of this scoping process is to gather public and governmental comments and input on the scope, or range of environmental issues and concerns, in connection with the proposed action and alternatives. Further, any concerns or issues relating to the implementation and future operation of that action are also encouraged. In order for the NEPA process to be effective, all relevant points of view about the potential environmental effects of the proposed action and alternatives needs to be identified and assessed. Your participation in the scoping process is one way to assure that this will be accomplished.

The U.S. Border Patrol will be accepting comments from all interested and concerned parties during the scoping process. Please forward your comments to me at SAIC, 4242 Woodcock, Suite 150, San Antonio, Texas 78228, by 26 November 2001. Although we recognize that there may be multiple members of your organization interested in this project, one representative from each organization identified has been selected to receive this letter. To ensure the widest dissemination possible, please circulate this letter among other individuals in your organization that would like to contribute to this effort.

Sincerely,

Robin Divine
Project Manager

Attachment:

Location Maps of Proposed Action and Alternatives

(This page intentionally left blank.)

SCOPING LETTERS RESPONSE LIST

Vince Giordano
716 Texas Avenue
El Paso, Texas 79901

F. Lawrence Oaks
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

Sarah G. Wood
El Paso Native Plant Society
5649 Cortina Dr.
El Paso, TX 79912-3442

Daniel Malanchuk
U.S. Army Corps of engineers
Albuquerque District
El Paso Regulatory Office
P.O. Box 6096
Fort Bliss, Texas 79906-0096

Gus and Helen Bigelow
P.O. Box 2627
Anthony, New Mexico 88021

Stanley R. Stack
3421 Montridge Ct.
El Paso, TX 79904

Carol Veit
1762 Villa Santos
El Paso, TX 79935

Wym Anderson
3015 Piedmont
El Paso, TX 79902

Joan Crane
3344 Polk
El Paso, TX 79930

Michael Kilham
5773 Vista Linda St.
El Paso, TX 79932

Jane Riger
1010 Blanchard Avenue
El Paso, TX 79902

Paul Riger
1010 Blanchard Avenue
El Paso, TX 79902

Robert Sivinski
Native Plant Society of New Mexico
P.O. Box 5917
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Marion Truxal
2812 Rocky Ridge
El Paso, TX 79904

Danney Allen
Texas Parks and Wildlife
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744-3291

Lois Balin
Texas Parks and Wildlife
401 E. Franklin, Suite 520
El Paso TX 79901

Betty Bainhart
2200 Febrero
El Paso, TX 79935

Scott Cutler
112 Colina Alta
El Paso, TX 79912

Betty E. Fisbeck
613 W. Sunset Road
El Paso, TX 79922

Mary Gourdoux
4605 Charlotte Court
El Paso, TX 79924

Linda McClain
715 Cincinnati Avenue
El Paso, TX 79902

Jeffery C. Uaabe
El Paso Archaeological Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 4345
El Paso, TX 79914-4345

Connie J. Walsh
3277 Mountain Walk Dr.
El Paso, TX 79904

Patricia E. White
10525 Texwood
El Paso, TX 79925

David W. R. Wyatt II
2607 N. Kansas St.
El Paso, TX 79902

John F. Cook
City Representative NE District
El Paso, TX 79901

Joe Weissmiller
3021 Park North Drive
2 Civic Center Plaza
El Paso, TX 79901-1196

Susan Crawford
3100 Bert Yancy
El Paso, TX 79936

Marcia Wyatt
2607 N. Kansas Street
El Paso, TX 79902

Peter Beste
3008 Titanic
El Paso, TX 79904

Hugh Jameson
7817 Big Bend Dr.
El Paso, TX 79904-3519

Mrs. Werner R. Mattersdorff
3334 Zion Lane, #J-5
El Paso, TX 79904

Zeoma Olszewski
9526 Roanoke
El Paso, TX 79924

Stephen A. Pugh
715 Cincinnati Ave.
El Paso, TX 79902

John Sproul
Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition
601 West Yandell Dr., #25
El Paso, TX 79902

Brent Sanders
4217 Boy Scout Lane
El Paso, TX 79922

Robert J. Truhill
Diamond Rash Gordon & Jackson, P.C.
300 E. Main Street, Seventh Floor

716 Texas Avenue
El Paso, Texas 79901
October 30, 2001

SAIC
4242 Woodcock, Suite 150
San Antonio, Texas 78228

Dear Mr. Divine,

Thank you for your invitation for my comments of the proposed use of a tract of land by the U.S. Border Patrol in the Castner Range. I oppose the use of any part of Castner Range other than preserving the natural state of the property and making it available to those that wish to reflect on its beauty.

I hold this view because the proposed use by the Border Patrol is *the most visually offensive*. Should the proposal been executed, as one approaches Castner Range, he or she would see man-made works on a site that heretofore has been in a natural state. I appreciate the natural beauty and significance of the Castner Range, and I simply hold that the entire range should be held in tact for future generations. Other alternative sites are available which would be far less visually and ecologically sensitive. From the Border Patrol's perspective, these other sites couldn't be any less strategically worst.

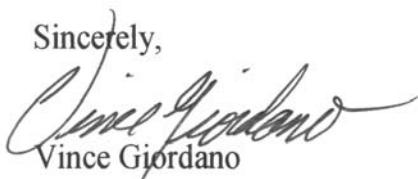
This letter would be remiss should no mention be made of the interests of residential developers. Should the proposed plan be executed, residential and commercial growth of the area contiguous to the proposed site and the Castner Range would expand.

Section 3.1.1.1

The ecology of the El Paso area has been degraded since it has been settled. The Castner is a pristine tract, literally untouched. The entire Castner Range is worthy of protection in perpetuity. The proposed Border Patrol tract would just be cheating nature one more time.

3.1.1.1

Therefore, please count me as opposing the carving out a piece of the Castner Range when there are more appealing alternatives.

Sincerely,

Vince Giordano



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWERENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 1, 2001

Ms. Robin Divine, Project Manager
Science Applications International Corporation
4242 Woodcock Drive, Suite 150
San Antonio, Texas 78228-1253

Re: Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
and the Antiquities Code of Texas
Preparation of EA for proposed Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters, El Paso County,
Texas (COE-Alb)

Dear Ms. Divine:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed federal undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission. As the state agency responsible for administering the Antiquities Code of Texas, we also provide recommendations on compliance with state antiquities laws and regulations.

The review staff led by Myles Miller has completed its review of the information provided in your letter of October 24, 2001. We have issued Texas Antiquities Permit #2707 to your archeological consultant, Dos Rios Consultants, Inc., for an archeological survey of the three proposed parcels. Our formal review and comment on the proposed undertaking and any potential effects to historic properties will be provided in our review of the draft report of investigations provided by your consultant.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this federal and state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Myles Miller at 512/463-5864.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William A. Mark".

for
F. Lawrence Oaks, Executive Director

cc: Neal W. Ackerly, Ph.D., Dos Rios Consulting, Inc.
John Schelburg, Ph.D., Corps of Engineers - Albuquerque District

LO/wjm/mm

November 8, 2001

Robin Divine, Project Manager
Science Applications International Corporation
4242 Woodcock #150
San Antonio, TX 78228

Attn: Robin Divine

Please accept this letter as an official response of the El Paso Native Plant Society to your October 27, 2001 call for public comment on the scope of environmental concerns and issues arising from the proposed location of a new Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters on approximately 40 acres of Department of Defense surplus property managed by the US Army in the area known as Castner Range, as well as alternate sites in the area owned by the Public Service Board of El Paso. The El Paso Native Plant Society represents 110 members in the greater El Paso area.

The Society has long been deeply concerned with any proposed development of the portion of Castner Range that lies west of US 54. Approximately half of this area consists of largely rugged mountainous slopes adjacent to the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Park but the remaining eastern portion, represented largely by gentle sloping plains forming the outwash bajada of Fusselman Canyon, is now surrounded by extensive residential, commercial and public school development on three sides and is where proposed Site 1 is located.

Sections 3.1.1

Fusselman Canyon is the largest drainage system on either the eastern or western slope of the Franklin Mountains. Its broad alluvial fan has been largely converted to desert scrub although significant but badly degraded grassland remnants still exist. Though dominated by non-native introduced grasses, these small patches are among the last publicly observable examples of desert grassland in El Paso County. Most importantly, the canyon drains a large but relatively isolated area of igneous substrate that produces an alluvial fan of granitic soils not found elsewhere on the flanks of the mountain range. These soils are markedly different from the more alkaline, usually calcareous soils of the northern Chihuahuan Desert region and, as a result, support in some abundance, an extraordinary number of plant species on the plains of Castner Range, which are rarely, if at all, found elsewhere in Texas beyond El Paso County. Most, in fact, represent the eastern most extension of range of flora from the Sonoran Desert and deserves protection as an important and unique part of Texas natural heritage.

3.3.3.1
3.2.4

Examples of this interesting flora include such easily recognizable taxa as Compass Barrel, *Ferocactus wislizeni*, and Sweet Stem, *Bebbia juncea*, but it is the winter annuals such as Bajada Lupine, *Lupinus concinnus* (the largest Texas population of this particular species of the Texas State Flower is found on Castner Range), *Calycoseris wrightii*, *Rafinesquina neomexicana*, *Malacothrix sonora* and *Arabis perennans* that provide the distinctively diverse mix of Chihuahuan and Sonoran flora that is unduplicated in the region.

3.2.4

However, none of the plants are as well known to the general public as *Escholtzia californica* var. *mexicana*, or Mexican Goldpoppy, whose periodic spectacular spring floral

display has become a source of great civic pride. The breathtaking views across Castner Range of this winter annual in bloom bring residents and tourists alike and even occasional national attention to the community through photographs and articles in regional and national publications. This magnificent display can be found nowhere else in Texas and in only two or three comparable locations in New Mexico, for that matter. Obviously, the now unobstructed view of the Mexican Poppy display from the Patriot Freeway represents a tremendous aesthetic asset to the community that cannot be replaced or mitigated once destroyed by buildings, fences, roads and utility lines necessary to support the proposed project. However, it is also the continued viability and ultimate survival of a plant and animal community unique to this region and to the State of Texas that is of greatest concern to this organization and its members. For that reason, we will vigorously oppose any encroachment that diminishes or threatens the natural state of the area.

Sections 4.2.1
4.2.2
4.10.1
4.10.1

Historical accident resulting from the long use of this area as a military firing range from the late 1920's through the mid 1960's, and subsequently the high cost of proper removal of remaining unexploded ordinance, has led to de-facto protection of the area as undeveloped, open space in the midst of a growing city. The area was declared surplus and that portion of the Range east of US 54 was transferred to various public entities in the 1970's and has been developed for residential, commercial and educational purposes. While the additional destruction of less than 50 acres adjacent to the freeway may seem acceptable in light of the public purpose the Border Patrol facilities will serve, it represents a substantial transgression into the heart of a unique plant community, and more broadly, the equally interesting eco-system of which those plants are a part.

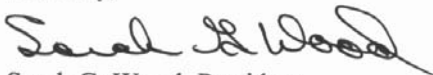
3.1.1.1

It is this larger picture that brings us to register our objections to Site 1, for no amount of remediation can ever replace what will be lost. Selection of Site 1 for this project and the supporting infrastructure improvements is further likely to open the door to a cascade of additional development and eventual loss of this natural botanical and scenic treasure. As envisioned by the citizens advisory committee to Congressman Richard White on the disposition of Castner Range in the 1970's, the Society remains dedicated to seeking preservation through transfer of this land to the State of Texas as an addition to the Franklin Mountain Wilderness Park after it has been at least surface cleared of unexploded ordinance. Currently the Park lacks any substantial lower elevation area similar to that found on the Range, much less one with the unusual soils and plants unique to Texas.

3.1.1.1

We have no concerns with Site 2 or Site 3 and will be pleased to provide any additional information necessary to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,



Sarah G. Wood, President,
El Paso Native Plant Society
5649 Cortina Dr.
El Paso, TX 79912-3442



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
EL PASO REGULATORY OFFICE
P.O. BOX 6096
FORT BLISS, TEXAS 79906-0096
FAX (915) 568-1348

November 8, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Operations Division
Regulatory Branch

Ms. Robin Divine
Science Applied International Corp.
4242 Woodcock Dr., Suite 150
San Antonio, TX 78228-1253

Dear Ms. Divine:

This replies to your October 24, 2001, letter regarding the proposed Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarter in El Paso, El Paso County, Texas. We have assigned Action No. 2001 00773 to this activity.

We have evaluated the information you provided and studied the project description, other records, and documents available to us. Corps Regulatory Personnel visited all three potential sites on November 8, 2001. There are no Corps of Engineers' jurisdictional waters on either Site 1 which is located on the southeast corner of the Castner Range, Site 2 which is located off McCombs Street, or Site 3 which is located off Sean Haggerty Drive. Therefore, the project is not regulated under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and a Department of the Army permit will not be required.

Our disclaimer of jurisdiction is only for Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Other Federal, state and local laws may apply to the activities. Therefore, you should also contact other Federal, state and local regulatory authorities to determine whether the activities may require other authorizations or permits.

This jurisdictional determination will be valid for 5 years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision of the determination within that time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (915) 568-1359 or e-mail me at daniel.malanchuk@usace.army.mil.

For more information about the regulatory program, please see our web site at www.spa.usace.army.mil/reg.

Sincerely,

Daniel Malanchuk
Chief, El Paso Regulatory Office

Copies furnished:

CESPA-OD-R-EP

Section 3.2.2

11/16/2001

A note from

Helen & Gus Bigelow

The proposed Border Patrol Station should not be built on Castner Range land for many reasons.

There are alternative sites which are far more suitable, and would not impact the ecological, historical, archeological, social, and aesthetic aspects of the El Paso community.

When the rains bless us at the proper time, the Castner Range becomes a field of poppies, glowing with life. It renews hope.

El Paso is badly in need of renewed hope.

Sincerely,

Gus & Helen Bigelow



November 17, 2001

Science Applications International Corporation
4242 Woodcock #150
San Antonio TX 78828

Attn: Robin Devine,

I am writing in response to the request for land on Castner Range, to be used as a Border Patrol Station and future Sector Headquarters. As a 26-year resident, and a small business person, I am very interested in the future of El Paso, and its development.

The use of Site #1 for a Border Patrol Station would have a detrimental effect on the visual beauty available to every El Pasoan. Locating here would increase traffic and create noise levels from that and other equipment that would disrupt patterns of wildlife use of the area, as well as reach into surrounding human environments, and possibly, into nearby State Park land.

If this station is built here, it is reasonable to believe the Border Patrol would look at this as an appropriate area for expansion. Other agencies may look to this land to build as well, thereby encroaching into an area that is home to species of plants found nowhere else in Texas, an area that harbors notable archeological sites, fragile spring-side environments, and complex geological features.

The cumulative impact of project after project in this area is unknowable, but significant, and negative. Each further use of Castner Range is incrementally destructive. More detailed study is required before any action is taken. An Environmental Impact Statement would certainly be necessary.

Site #2 has quick access to Highway 54, and is near Loop 375 East. The area has no existing residential neighborhood to disrupt, appears comparatively level, and is of a regular shape, facilitating design and use. Site #2 is far enough removed from the mountain that radio and other communications should be easily accomplished. If helicopter pads are required, the flat area seems safe.

I would prefer that the Border Patrol Station be built on Site #2, and that Site #1 be dropped from consideration. Thanks for including my input. Please keep me informed by sending all documents and reports, as well as notifications of other activities such as meetings and forums.

Stanley R. Stack
3421 Montridge Ct.
El Paso, TX 79904



915-566-1561

Sections 4.1.1

4.1.2.1

4.8.1

4.8.2

4.10.1

4.10.2

3.1.1.1

1762 Villa Santos
El Paso, TX 79935
November 18, 2001

Robin Divine
Project Manager SA/C
4242 Woodstock, #150
San Antonio, TX 7882

Dear Sir:

I am writing you to express my concern over the possible purchase of land on the Castner Range by the Border Patrol. I have no doubt that the Border Patrol needs more land and additional space. However, I believe that El Paso should keep this scenic and wonderful area undeveloped. El Paso's past history of parks and natural open spaces is not good and as we hope to draw businesses here, we must offer quality of life. Dividing up land such as the Castner Range detracts from this quality.

I love living in the scenic city, but am ashamed of our lack of pride in what we have here. Please let us keep some areas that make us proud!

Sincerely,



Carol Veit

Section 3.1.1.1

November 19, 2001

Project Manager,
Science Applications International Corporation
4242 Woodcock Dr. #150
San Antonio, TX 78228-1253

Attention: Robin Divine:

Please accept this response to your request for public comment on the environmental consequences of proposed siting of a new Border Patrol Complex on a 40-acre parcel of the former US Army firing range known as Castner Range rather than other available parcels in Northeast El Paso or elsewhere in the area.

By way of introduction, I am the Botanical Curator of the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens of the Centennial Museum at the University of Texas at El Paso. I speak, however not on behalf of the University but as a private citizen. I am a long time resident of El Paso and had the honor of serving as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee to Congressman Richard C. White on the disposition of the Caster Range when it was declared surplus in the 1970's. I am intimately familiar with the area in question and feel I am qualified to speak on the matter at hand.

However assumptive it may be, it is a long held community belief that the western portion of the Range that has not been developed is being held for park use once cleared of unexploded ammunition and would someday be transferred to Texas Parks and Wildlife for addition to the Franklin Mountain State Park. This is not a totally baseless assumption as that was essentially the recommendation of the committee in exchange for freeing the more (then) valuable eastern portion. The continued nibbling away of small portions of the remaining undeveloped land is a betrayal of community trust and portends the eventual loss of what has become a valued visual, if not physical, community asset. The continued loss of the scenic qualities this property represents is of profound consequence to the well being of not only the northeast urban area but also the entire city of El Paso.

One of the primary reasons for this scenic quality is a series of unique natural attributes of the area. The Range overlies the alluvial fan of Fusselman Canyon. The Canyon is one of the largest and most mesic of the Franklin Mountains and it drains a large area of granite substrate. The granite produces uncommon soils, which in turn supports an uncommon plant assemblage that differ considerably from the norm of the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert. There are a number of plants in the area which occur nowhere else in Texas and which define the easternmost intrusion of representatives of the flora (and in some cases, fauna) of the Sonoran Desert into the Chihuahuan Desert. There are corresponding western limits to Chihuahuan flora in the Whetstone Mountains east of Tucson, incidentally. In any event, these unusual plants are largely winter annuals such as *Escholtzia californica* var. *mexicana* whose spring flowering displays in following wet

Sections 3.1.1.1

3.2.1.1
3.2.4

winters provide a spectacular vista across the now unobstructed view of Castner Range from the near by highway and surrounding residential and commercial areas.

Obviously, this interesting flora and the animals it supports, has much more than just scenic value. Given de facto protection due to limited public access for years, this regionally unique plant and animal community is of considerable scientific interest and potentially, great educational value, especially when the considerable archeological resources are also considered.

While arguments may be made as to whether development of some relatively small portion of the range will directly impact this species or that species, it is the piece meal destruction, and the accumulation of indirect consequences that is most alarming.

Clearly, these potential impacts are much less at proposed site 2 and 3, which are equally useful for the proposed Border Patrol use.

Sections 4.10.1

4.10.2.1

4.9.1

4.9.2

3.1.1.1

Sincerely,



Wynn Anderson
3015 Piedmont
El Paso, Texas 79902

November 19, 2001

Dear Robin Davis,

I would like to add to the protests about the use of the Castro Range as the new site for the Border Patrol. The proposed area is a source of beauty in this city. It would be a great loss to all of us.

I understand there are other areas that would not be as devastating to the quality of life in El Paso.

Please do not build on the Castro Range.

Sincerely,

Joan Crane
3344 Polk
El Paso, TX 79930

5773 Vista Linda St.

El Paso, TX 79932

19 November 01

Robin Devine, Project Manager

SAIC

4242 Woodcock, Suite 150

San Antonio, TX 78228

Dear Sir,

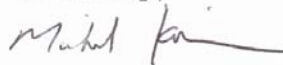
I'm writing to oppose the construction of a Border Patrol facility at the Castner Range site. There is a wonderful view of undeveloped Franklin Mountains sweeping up from our North-South Interstate - a view that I enjoyed for many years as I drove to work each day. I consider that view one of the better features of El Paso and one that thousands of El Pasoans can benefit from as they drive to work each day.

Sections 4.10.1
4.10.2.1

To build on Castner Range, especially when an alternative site exists, would be a blow to the City of El Paso and to the residents of the Northeast. It would be kind of like filling in part of San Antonio's river loop to put in a new hotel.

Please choose an alternative site.

Sincerely,



Michael Kilham

1010 Blanchard Avenue
El Paso, TX 79902
November 19, 2001

Robin Devine, Project Manager
SAIC
4242 Woodcock, Suite 150
San Antonio, TX 78228

Attention Robin Devine, Project Manager:

Please do not allow the Border Patrol (or anyone else) to develop the Castner Range. It has irreplaceable environmental and aesthetic significance to the El Paso region. It needs to be preserved and eventually incorporated as a part of the Franklin Mountain State Park.

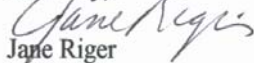
Sections 4.10.1
4.10.2.1

I am a newcomer to the El Paso region and continue to be dismayed by the lack of attention to aesthetic values here. Hiking in the mountains and enjoying the natural beauty of the region is important to me.

Please consider the site located at Highway 54 and Mc Combs as the best possible site for the Border Patrol selection. It has good access for transportation needs and would not disrupt the Castner Range.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jane Riger

1010 Blanchard Ave.
El Paso, TX 79902
Nov. 19, 2001

SAIC
Attn. Robin Divine, Project Manager
4242 Woodstock, #150
San Antonio, TX 78228

It has come to my attention that the U.S. Border Patrol is considering building a station in the Castner Range, in the Northwest corner of Hondo Pass Drive and Highway 54 in El Paso. This site (designated as "Site # 1") falls within a section of the Sonoran Desert that encompasses valuable examples of native plants, which should be preserved as part of El Paso's unique ecology.

Sections 3.2

This site would be an appropriate addition to Franklin Mountain State Park, so that it's natural beauty can continue to be enjoyed by the community. Construction would result in irreparable damage to this fragile ecosystem.

4.2

I urge you to consider the value of this natural resource in your recommendations to the Border Patrol, and to select an area such as Site # 2 (NW corner of McCombs St. and Highway 54) which does not host such unique biological resources.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Riger



Native Plant Society of New Mexico

November 19, 2001

Project Manager
Science Applications International Corporation
4242 Woodcock #150
San Antonio, TX 78228

Attention: Robin Divine

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico wishes to provide this response to your call for public comment on environmental concerns associated with the proposal to locate a new Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters on approximately 40 acres of surplus Federal property located within the former US Army firing range known as Castner Range.

The Society feels that the loss of any portion of this area, which supports a plant community unique to Texas and Southern New Mexico, represents an unacceptable impact upon the natural environmental heritage of this entire region for which there is no acceptable mitigation. As outlined in the recent submission to you by the El Paso Native Plant Society, the granitic soils of the Castner Range support the eastern most occurrence of several plant species more commonly found in the Sonoran Desert region of Arizona and Sonora. These plants are of great botanical interest, not simply because of their uniqueness to the flora of Texas, but because of the information they can provide. This includes studies as to the past and present nature and extent of geographical and climatic barriers to the continental migration of plant and animal communities and of the evolutionary differentiation such isolated plant populations may undergo.

The area in question also provides considerable scenic value to the region as a result of periodic spectacular flowering displays of winter annuals, most notably the Mexican Goldpoppy, *Eschlotizia californica* var. *mexicana*. While a very few similar displays may also occur elsewhere in the northern Chihuahuan Desert region of south-central and southwestern New Mexico, nowhere are such occurrences easily accessible to the public, much less commonly observable in the heart of a major metropolitan area such as El Paso. The wildflower display on the Castner Range serves as an extremely important teaching tool in the effort to foster an appreciation for our native plants and animals and an understanding of the need to protect and preserve them in their natural habitat. For that reason the Native Plant Society of New Mexico also supports the efforts of our El Paso Chapter and other El Paso civic organizations to see that this unique scientific,

Sections 4.2.1

4.10.1
4.10.2.1

PO Box 5917 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

educational and scenic treasure is ultimately given the protection it deserves as a part of the adjacent Franklin Mountain State Park.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Robert Sivinski
NPSNM President

2012 Rocky Ridge Drive,
El Paso, Texas, 79904
November 19, 2001

Robin Divino, Project Manager, SAIC
4242 Woodstock, #150
San Antonio, TX 78228

Re: El Paso - US Border Patrol
request for land from the
Castner Range.

Dear Robin Divino:

I am hoping your recommendation will be opposing the use of land in the Castner Range, now under control of the military. For land adjacent to public State Park areas to be disposed of piecemeal and not protected for public use would put short range expediency ahead of long range conservation and community interests. This land contains irreplaceable plant and animal habitat that should be preserved for long term public benefit.

There are alternate locations for the Border Patrol and they should have priority consideration.

I understand the Castner Range land might not become part of the State Park eventually, but setting a precedent to allot it for other uses now will endanger this public treasure forever. Please consider that there are serious reasons the Castner Range land should not be considered for disposal to the Border Patrol.

Sincerely,
Marion H. Treysal

Sections 3.1.1.1

3.1.1.1



November 20, 2001

Robin Divine
Science Applications International Corporation
4242 Woodcock Drive, Suite 150
San Antonio, TX 78228-1253

RE: Proposed U.S. Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters, El Paso County

Dear Ms. Divine:

Thank you for coordinating with this agency in your planning activities regarding the construction of a U.S. Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters near the City of El Paso. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) staff have reviewed the project and offer the following comments.

The proposed project entails the construction of a U.S. Border Patrol Station and future Sector Headquarters on 40-acres in the southeast corner of the Castner Range on Ft. Bliss. Two alternative sites are proposed near the intersection of U.S. 54 and McCombs Street and near the intersection of Sean Haggerty Drive and McCombs Street in El Paso.

For your information, I have attached a list of Threatened and Endangered species that may occur in El Paso County. Although this list should prove useful as background material, it is not intended as a substitute for comprehensive on-site evaluations by competent biologists. Determination of the actual presence of a species in a given area depends on a number of variables such as daily and seasonal activity cycles, environmental activity cues, preferred habitat, transiency, and population density (both wildlife and human). Absence of a species can be demonstrated only with great difficulty and then only with repeated negative observations, taking into account all of the variable factors contributing to the lack of observability. Information regarding known locations and potential adverse impacts to sensitive species and natural communities near the proposed project area can be obtained by contacting Celeste Brancel-Brown at (512) 912-7021 or 3000 South IH-35, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78704.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act implicitly prohibits intentional and unintentional take of migratory birds, including their nests and eggs, except where permitted. Measures should be taken to ensure that migratory bird species within and near the project area are not adversely impacted by right-of-way clearing and construction activities. TPWD recommends contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Migratory Bird Office at (505) 248-7882 should any large flocks of birds occupy any habitat within the project area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) staff should be consulted to assist in the coordination of a determination, and subsequent verification of a delineation of jurisdictional wetlands prior to commencement of proposed land alteration activities. Once the jurisdictional determination/delineation is completed, a COE/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "Section 404/10" permit may be required for land alteration activities affecting waters of the United States, including wetlands. Compensation may be required for any encroachment into these areas. Should mitigation be required, habitat compensation plans should contain detailed descriptions of the

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Sections 3.2

3.2.3

3.2.2

*Give Thanks for
the Memories...*



Lone Star Legacy.

*Give to the
Lone Star Legacy
Endowment Fund*

4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744-3291
512-389-4800
www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Robin Divine

Page 2

proposed compensation areas. Detailed drawings should include plan-view locations of the encroachments and cross-section details including design features, construction, planting lists, and maintenance schedules.

The January 9, 2001 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court case "*Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. United States Army Corps of Engineers et al.*" removed the regulation of isolated wetlands from the COE permitting process. However, isolated wetlands, as well as jurisdictional wetlands, provide valuable habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. These wetlands protect water quality by filtering and retaining freshwater runoff and associated pollutants from adjacent roads and developed properties. TPWD recommends identifying all wetland areas within the project area and minimizing any adverse impacts to isolated wetlands to the same extent as jurisdictional wetlands.

Sections 3.2.2

Impervious vehicular and pedestrian use areas should not impede natural surface water drainage. Stormwater runoff from these areas should be treated before discharging into nearby aquatic and wetland habitats. Soil erosion and siltation into any nearby aquatic and wetland habitats should be minimized using soil erosion prevention techniques. Natural buffers contiguous to wetlands and aquatic systems should remain undisturbed, to preserve wildlife cover, food sources, and travel corridors.

3.42

Removal of unique native vegetation should be avoided or minimized during project development. Losses should be minimized using site planning and construction techniques designed to avoid and preserve native trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs. Should any losses be determined as unavoidable, landscaping plans should incorporate the use native species to attract birds and other wildlife. Attached is a list of plants native to the El Paso area that would offer value to wildlife and would enhance the control of soil erosion within the project area.

4.2

I appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on this project. Please call me at (512) 389-4579 if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Danny Allen
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

Attachments

DLA:pmo.8924



Notes for
County Lists of
Texas' Special Species



The Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) county lists **include**:

Vertebrates, Invertebrates, and Vascular Plants on the special species lists of the Texas Biological and Conservation Data System. These special species lists are comprised of all species, subspecies, and varieties that are federally listed; proposed to be federally listed; have federal candidate status; are state listed; or carry a global conservation status indicating a species is imperiled, very rare, or vulnerable to extirpation.

Colonial Waterbird Nesting Areas and Migratory Songbird Fallout Areas are contained on the county lists for coastal counties only.

The TPWD county lists **exclude**:

Natural Plant Communities such as Little Bluestem-Indiangrass Series (native prairie remnant), Water Oak-Willow Oak Series (bottomland hardwood community), Saltgrass-Cordgrass Series (salt or brackish marsh), Sphagnum-Beakrush Series (seepage bog).

Other Significant Features such as non-coastal bird rookeries, migratory bird information, bat roosts, bat caves, invertebrate caves, and prairie dog towns.

The **revised date** on each county list reflects the last date any changes or revisions were made for that county and reflects current listing statuses and taxonomy.

Species that appear on county lists do not all share the same probability of occurrence within a county. Some species are migrants or wintering residents only. Additionally, a few species may be historic or considered extirpated within a county. Species considered extirpated within the state are so flagged on each list.

Revised: 11/14/01



**The Texas Biological
and Conservation Data System**



The Texas Biological and Conservation Data System (TXBCD), established in 1983, is the Department's most comprehensive source of information on rare, threatened, and endangered plants and animals, exemplary natural communities, and other significant features. Though it is not all-inclusive, the TXBCD is constantly updated, providing current or additional information on statewide status and locations of these unique elements of natural diversity.

The TXBCD gathers biological information from museum and herbarium collection records, publications, experts in the scientific community, organizations, individuals, and on-site field surveys conducted by TPWD staff on public lands or private lands with written permission. TPWD staff botanists, zoologists, and ecologists perform field surveys to locate and verify specific occurrences of high-priority biological elements and collect accurate information on their condition, quality, and management needs.

The TXBCD can be used to help evaluate the environmental impacts of routing and siting options for development projects. It also assists in impact assessment, environmental review, and permit review.

Given the small proportion of public versus private land in Texas, the TXBCD does not include a representative inventory of rare resources in the state. Although it is based on the best data available to TPWD regarding rare species, these data cannot provide a definitive statement as to the presence, absence, or condition of special species, natural communities, or other significant features in any area. Nor can these data substitute for on-site evaluation by qualified biologists. The TXBCD information is intended to assist the user in avoiding harm to species that may occur.

Please use the following citation to credit the TXBCD as the source for this county level information:

Texas Biological and Conservation Data System. Texas Parks and Wildlife, Wildlife Diversity Branch. County Lists of Texas' Special Species. [county name(s) and revised date(s)].

For information on obtaining a project review form or a site-specific review of a project area for rare species, please call (512) 912-7011.

Revised: 11/14/01

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, EL PASO, TEXAS

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT
ENDANGERED RESOURCES BRANCH
SPECIAL SPECIES LIST
EL PASO COUNTY

Revised:
98-04-30

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status
*** AMPHIBIANS			
RANA PIPIENS	NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG		
*** BIRDS			
BUTEO ALBONOTATUS	ZONE-TAILED HAWK		T
EMPIDONAX TRAILLII EXTIMUS	SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER	LE	E
FALCO PEREGRINUS	PEREGRINE FALCON	E/SA	
FALCO PEREGRINUS ANATUM	AMERICAN PEREGRINE FALCON	LE	E
FALCO PEREGRINUS TUNDRIUS	ARCTIC PEREGRINE FALCON	E/SA	T
STRIX OCCIDENTALIS LUCIDA	MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL	LT	T
*** FISHES			
NOTROPIS SIMUS (extirpated)	BLUNTNOSE SHINER		T
*** MAMMALS			
CYNOMYS LUDOVICIANUS	ARIZONA BLACK-TAILED		
ARIZONENSIS	PRAIRIE DOG		
GEOMYS ARENARIUS	DESERT POCKET GOPHER		
MYOTIS THYSANODES	FRINGED MYOTIS BAT		
MYOTIS YUMANENSIS	YUMA MYOTIS BAT		
ONDATRA ZIBETHICUS RIPENSIS	PECOS RIVER MUSKRAT		
*** MOLLUSKS			
ASHMUNELLA PASONIS	FRANKLIN MOUNTAIN WOOD SNAIL		
SONORELLA METCALFI	FRANKLIN MOUNTAIN TALUS SNAIL		
*** REPTILES			
PHRYNOSOMA CORNUTUM	TEXAS HORNED LIZARD		T
PHRYNOSOMA HERNANDESI	MOUNTAIN SHORT-HORNED LIZARD		T
THAMNOPHIS SIRTALIS DORSALIS	NEW MEXICO GARTER SNAKE		
TRACHEMYS GAIGEA	BIG BEND SLIDER		
TRIMORPHODON BISCUTATUS	TEXAS LYRE SNAKE		T
*** VASCULAR PLANTS			
ALLOLEPIS TEXANA	TEXAS FALSE SALTGRASS		
BRICKELLIA BACCHARIDEA	RESIN-LEAF BRICKELLBUSH		
CEREUS GREGGII VAR GREGGII	DESERT NIGHT-BLOOMING CEREUS		
CHAMAESYCE GEYERI VAR WHEELERIANA	WHEELER'S SPURGE		
COLUBRINA STRICTA	COMAL SNAKEWOOD		
CORYPHANTHA DASYACANTHA VAR DASYACANTHA	DENSE CORY CACTUS		
CORYPHANTHA SNEEDII VAR SNEEDII	SNEED PINCUSHION CACTUS	LE	E
NOLINA ARENICOLA	SAND SACAUISTA		
OPUNTIA ARENARIA	SAND PRICKLY-PEAR		

----- continued next page -----

Page 2 - El Paso County
Vascular Plants - continued
Revised: 98-04-30

PENSTEMON ALAMOSENSIS
PERITYLE HUECOENSIS

ALAMO BEARDTONGUE
HUECO ROCK-DAISY

Codes:

LE,LT - Federally Listed Endangered/Threatened
PE,PT - Federally Proposed Endangered/Threatened
E/SA,T/SA - Federally Endangered/Threatened by Similarity of Appearance
C1 - Federal Candidate, Category 1; information supports proposing to
list as endangered/threatened
DL,PDL - Federally Delisted/Proposed Delisted
E,T - State Endangered/Threatened

Species appearing on these lists do not all share the same probability of occurrence within a county. Some species are migrants or wintering residents only. Additionally, a few species may be historic or considered extirpated within a county. Species considered extirpated within the state are so flagged on each list. Each county's revised date reflects the last date any changes or revisions were made for that county, to reflect current listing statuses and taxonomy.

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Threatened and Endangered Species Review
3000 S. IH-35, Suite 100
Austin, Texas 78704
512/912-7011 phone
512/912-7058 fax
www.tpwd.state.tx.us



Threatened and Endangered Species Review

This service includes an analysis of your site-specific assessment of environmental information and impacts on threatened, endangered, and other rare species, natural communities, and special features presently known and/or potentially occurring in the vicinity of a project. Please complete this form, attach a write-up for Numbers 1 through 8 listed below, and send this information to us at the above address. We will provide you an analysis and/or recommendations based on the most current information available to Texas Parks and Wildlife regarding these sensitive natural resources. Please allow up to 8 weeks for review, depending on the size of your request. Note that the more information you provide, the more customized our review, and the faster our turnaround. If you need only **state or county level information** for preliminary project planning, in lieu of this form please contact our administrative staff at (512) 912-7011.

NAME	DATE
COMPANY	PHONE
ADDRESS	FAX
Project Title:	County(ies):

- 1) Scope of Project – Why is the review being requested?
 - a) What regulations will this review help you to comply with?
 - b) What activities will be conducted at the site?
- 2) Vegetation - structure and composition, vegetation layers, height of layers, dominant species
- 3) Other Natural Resources/Physical features - watercourses, soils, geology, animals, etc.
- 4) Improvements - extent of pavement, gravel, shell, or other cover; buildings, landscaped, xeriscaped, drainage system, etc).

Revised 08/01

- Threatened and Endangered Species Review, contd. -

- 5) Historic Use of Site - Describe in detail.
- 6) Has a T & E survey already been performed? If Yes, provide surveyor name, qualifications, survey method; acreage surveyed; level of effort; weather conditions, time of day, and dates the survey was performed.
- 7) Description of potential negative impacts from project activities and avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures planned. Describe briefly.
- 8) Description of planned beneficial enhancements or restoration efforts. Describe briefly.
- 9) Original(s) or photocopy(ies) of relevant portion(s) of USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle(s) or best map(s) available.
- 10) Original(s) or color-copied photograph(s), or aerial photograph(s).



TPWD would like to inform you that due to the increase in requests for **threatened and endangered species review** of proposed projects, charges have been instituted for this service. Since TPWD is largely a self-funded agency, this revenue will allow for additional staffing to provide more timely responses to review requests. The charges are based on a flat fee (minimum charge of \$50/project site), except when the project is unusually large (\$25/additional hour). The response letter for these projects will be provided within 8 weeks, longer for large projects, and accompanied by an invoice, which will be due upon receipt. Government agencies are exempted from these charges. Private consultants performing work under contract for government entities will be charged.



Texas Plant Information Database

Ecological Distribution-->TRANS-PECOS Topographic Tolerance-->UPLAND

108 -- Plant(s) are recommended for your site requirements.

Code	Common Name	Scientific Name	Erosion Index	Wildlife Index
3	YELLOW INDIANGRASS	SORGHASTRUM NUTANS	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
4	SWITCHGRASS	PANICUM VIRGATUM	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
7	COMMON CHOKECHERRY	PRUNUS VIRGINIANA	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
95	ILLINOIS BUNDLE FLOWER (PRAIRIE MIMOSA)	DESMANTHUS ILLINOENSIS	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
56	BIG BLUESTEM	ANDROPOGON GERARDII	EXCELLENT	GOOD
59	SIDEOATS GRAMA	BOUTELOUA CURTIPENDULA	EXCELLENT	GOOD
87	COMMON REED	PHRAGMITES AUSTRALIS	EXCELLENT	GOOD
237	ASHE JUNIPER	JUNIPERUS ASHEI	EXCELLENT	GOOD
8	ALKALI SACATON	SPOROBOLUS AIROIDES	EXCELLENT	GOOD
65	COMMON CURLYMESQUITE	HILARIA BERLANGERI	EXCELLENT	GOOD
107	FRAGRANT SUMAC	RHUS AROMATICA	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
47	WINTERFAT	CERATOIDES LANATA	EXCELLENT	GOOD
31	BLACK CHERRY	PRUNUS SEROTINA	EXCELLENT	GOOD
129	BLACK GRAMA	BOUTELOUA ERIPODA	EXCELLENT	GOOD
130	WESTERN WHEATGRASS	ELYTRIGIA SMITHII (AGROPYRON SMITHII)	EXCELLENT	GOOD
68	LITTLE BLUESTEM	SCHIZACHYRIUM SCOPARIUM	EXCELLENT	GOOD
128	SAND DROPSEED	SPOROBOLUS CRYPTANDRUS	EXCELLENT	GOOD
55	DOWNY VIBURNUM (RUSTY BLACKHAW)	VIBURNUM RUFIDULUM	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
138	RIVERBANK GRAPE	VITIS RIPARIA	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT
2	CROTON, SPP.	CROTON, SPP.	EXCELLENT	EXCELLENT

25	TEXAS PERSIMMON	DIOSPYROS TEXANA	EXCELLENT	GOOD
322	TEXAS MULBERRY	MORUS MICROPHYLLA	EXCELLENT	GOOD
315	PINCHOT JUNIPER (REDBERRY JUNIPER)	JUNIPERUS PINCHOTII	EXCELLENT	GOOD
60	BLUE GRAMA	BOUTELOUA GRACILIS	EXCELLENT	GOOD
70	BIG SACATON	SPOROBOLUS WRIGHTII	EXCELLENT	GOOD
66	GREEN SPRANGLETOP	LEPTOCHLOA DUBIA	EXCELLENT	GOOD
126	HONEY MESQUITE	PROSOPIS GLANDULOSA VAR. GLANDULOSA	EXCELLENT	GOOD
62	BUFFALOGRASS	BUCHLOE DACTYLOIDES	EXCELLENT	GOOD
230	LOTEBUSH	ZIZYPHUS OBTUSIFOLIA	GOOD	GOOD
28	OSAGE ORANGE (BOIS D'ARC)	MACLURA POMIFERA	GOOD	GOOD
45	FOURWING SALTBUCH	ATRIPLEX CANESCENS	GOOD	GOOD
325	TROPIC CROTON	CROTON GLANDULOSUS	GOOD	FAIR
140	CHINKAPIN OAK	QUERCUS MUHLENBERGII	GOOD	GOOD
61	HAIRY GRAMA	BOUTELOUA HIRSUTA	GOOD	GOOD
10	AGARITO	MAHONIA TRIFOLIOLATA	GOOD	GOOD
191	SAND LOVEGRASS	ERAGROSTIS TRICHODES	GOOD	GOOD
119	AMERICAN BITTERSWEET	CELASTRUS SCANDENS	GOOD	GOOD
213	BLUE SAGE	SALVIA AZUREA	GOOD	FAIR
332	YELLOW SWEETCLOVER	MELILOTUS OFFICINALIS	GOOD	GOOD
20	GUM BUMELIA (CHITTAMWOOD)	BUMELIA LANUGINOSA	GOOD	GOOD
118	PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER	DALEA PURPUREA	GOOD	GOOD
156	CAROLINA SNAILSEED	COCCULUS CAROLINUS	GOOD	GOOD
292	CAREX SPP.	SEDGES	GOOD	GOOD
116	FEATHER DALEA	DALEA FORMOSA	GOOD	GOOD
154	SAND BLUESTEM	ANDROPOGON GERARDII VAR. PAUCIPILUS	GOOD	GOOD
267	GAMBEL OAK	QUERCUS GAMBELII	GOOD	GOOD
197	FALSE MESQUITE	CALLIANDRA CONFERTA	GOOD	FAIR
259	BIG-TOOTH MAPLE	ACER GRANDIDENTATUM	GOOD	FAIR
279	SACAHUISTA (BEARGRASS)	NOLINA SPP.	GOOD	FAIR
149	GUAJILLO	ACACIA BERLANDIERI	GOOD	GOOD
239	ELBOWBUSH	FORESTIERA PUBESCENS	GOOD	FAIR

187	COMMON BEEBUSH (WHITEBRUSH)	ALOYSIA GRATISSIMA	GOOD	FAIR
277	MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY	CERCOCARPUS MONTANUS	GOOD	FAIR
147	FERN ACACIA (PRAIRIE ACACIA)	ACACIA ANGUSTISSIMA	GOOD	FAIR
247	MEXICAN PRIMROSE	OENOTHERA SPECIOSA	GOOD	POOR
179	SILVER BLUESTEM	BOTHRIODCHLOA LAGUROIDES	GOOD	FAIR
188	WESTERN YARROW	ACHILLEA MILLEFOLIUM	GOOD	FAIR
264	EMORY OAK	QUERCUS EMORYI	GOOD	FAIR
268	GRAY OAK	QUERCUS GRISEA	GOOD	FAIR
190	ENGELMANN DAISY	ENGELMANNIA PINNATIFIDA	GOOD	FAIR
265	FAXON YUCCA	YUCCA FAXONIANA	GOOD	FAIR
283	SOAPTREE YUCCA	YUCCA ELATA	GOOD	FAIR
286	THOMPSON YUCCA	YUCCA THOMPSONIANA	GOOD	FAIR
287	TORREY YUCCA (SPANISH DAGGER)	YUCCA TORREYI	GOOD	FAIR
323	TEXAS SIGNALGRASS (TEXAS MILLET)	BRACHIARIA TEXANA	GOOD	FAIR
256	ARIZONA WHITE OAK	QUERCUS ARIZONICA	GOOD	FAIR
282	SKELETONLEAF GOLDEN-EYE	VIGUIERA STENOLOBA	GOOD	FAIR
233	HEATH ASTER	ASTER ERICOIDES	GOOD	FAIR
241	PLAINS COREOPSIS (GOLDEN TICKSEED)	COREOPSIS TINCTORIA	GOOD	FAIR
24	EASTERN REDBUD	CERCIS CANADENSIS	FAIR	FAIR
318	REDROOT PIGWEED	AMARANTHUS RETROFLEXUS	FAIR	FAIR
206	UPRIGHT PRAIRIE CONEFLOWER (MEXICAN HAT)	RATIBIDA COLUMINFERA	FAIR	FAIR
207	PRAIRIE SUMAC	RHUS LANCEOLATA	FAIR	FAIR
194	INDIAN BLANKET	GAILLARDIA PULCHELLA	FAIR	FAIR
274	LITTLE-LEAF SUMAC	RHUS MICROPHYLLA	FAIR	FAIR
284	SOTOL	DASYLIRION SPP.	FAIR	FAIR
314	NETLEAF HACKBERRY	CELTIS RETICULATA	FAIR	GOOD
327	WESTERN RAGWEED	AMBROSIA CUMANENSIS	FAIR	GOOD
199	PRAIRIE SUNFLOWER	HELIANTHUS PETIOLARIS	FAIR	GOOD

273	LITTLELEAF LEADTREE	LEUCAENA RETUSA	FAIR	FAIR
124	SLIMLEAF SCURFPEA (WILD ALFALFA)	PSORALIDIUM TENUIFLORA	FAIR	FAIR
208	EVERGREEN SUMAC	RHUS VIRENS	FAIR	FAIR
209	GOLDEN CURRANT	RIBES AUREUM	FAIR	FAIR
162	BEEBALM (WILD BERGAMOT)	MONARDA FISTULOSA	FAIR	POOR
204	PROSTRATE KNOTWEED	POLYGONUM AVICULARE	FAIR	FAIR
157	TEXAS COLUBRINA	COLUBRINA TEXENSIS	FAIR	FAIR
238	ALLTHORN	KOEBERLINIA SPINOSA	FAIR	POOR
270	GUAYACAN	GUAIAACUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM	FAIR	FAIR
181	CREOSOTE BUSH	LARREA TRIDENTATA	FAIR	FAIR
189	PURPLE CONEFLOWER	ECHINACEA PALLIDA	FAIR	FAIR
261	CHOLLA	OPUNTIA (MULTIPLE SPECIES)	FAIR	FAIR
278	PRICKLYPEAR	OPUNTIA SPP.	FAIR	FAIR
151	BLACKBRUSH	ACACIA RIGIDULA	FAIR	FAIR
228	AWNLESS BUSH SUNFLOWER	SIMSIA CALVA	FAIR	FAIR
269	GREGG ASH	FRAXINUS GREGGII	FAIR	FAIR
255	CENTURY PLANT	AGAVE SPP.	FAIR	FAIR
262	COMMON LANTANA	LANTANA HORRIDA	FAIR	POOR
257	AUTUMN SAGE	SALVIA GREGGII	FAIR	POOR
150	CATCLAW ACACIA	ACACIA GREGGII	FAIR	FAIR
289	WESTERN SOAPBERRY	SAPINDUS SAPONARIA VAR. DRUMMONDII	FAIR	POOR
193	DESERT OLIVE (NARROWLEAF FORESTIERA)	FORESTIERA ANGUSTIFOLIA	POOR	FAIR
220	DESERT YAUPON	SCHAEFFERIA CUNEIFOLIA	POOR	FAIR
170	GOATBUSH	CASTELA TEXANA	POOR	POOR
272	KIDNEYWOOD	EYSENHARDTIA TEXANA	POOR	POOR
280	SANDPAPER OAK (VASEY OAK)	QUERCUS PUNGENS	POOR	FAIR
275	MESCALBEAN (TEXAS MOUNTAIN LAUREL)	SOPHORA SECUNDIFLORA	POOR	POOR
276	MEXICAN BUCKEYE (MONILLA)	UNGNADIA SPECIOSA	POOR	POOR

HTML Test Page

Page 5 of 5

263	DESERT MYRTLECROTON	BERNARDIA OBOVATA	POOR	POOR
-----	------------------------	-------------------	------	------

Please send comments, suggestions, or questions to:

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

4200 SMITH SCHOOL RD. AUSTIN, TX 78744

or click on the address to send an E-mail message.

<http://tpwd-iisdev/tpid/PlantFind.asp>

11/14/01



COMMISSIONERS
 LEE M. BASS
 CHAIRMAN, FT. WORTH
 CAROL E. DINKINS
 VICE-CHAIR, HOUSTON
 ERNEST ANGELO, JR.
 MIDLAND
 JOHN AVILA, JR.
 FT. WORTH
 RICHARD (DICK) HEATH
 DALLAS
 ALVIN L. HENRY
 HOUSTON
 KATHARINE ARMSTRONG IDOL
 SAN ANTONIO
 NOLAN RYAN
 ALVIN
 MARK E. WATSON, JR.
 SAN ANTONIO
 PERRY R. BASS
 CHAIRMAN-EMERITUS
 FT. WORTH
 ANDREW SANSON
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Give Thanks for
 the Memories...*



Lone Star Legacy.

*Give to the
 Lone Star Legacy
 Endowment Fund*

4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78744-3291
 512-389-4800
 www.tpwd.state.tx.us

Lois Balin, Urban Wildlife Biologist
 Texas Parks and Wildlife
 401 E. Franklin, Suite 520
 El Paso, Texas 79901, (915) 834-7070, elpasowild@aol.com

November 20, 2001

Robin Divine, Project Manager
 SAIC, 4242 Woodcock, Suite 150
 San Antonio, TX 78228

Dear Robin,

I am the Urban Wildlife Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife for the El Paso and Trans-Pecos region. I write this letter to you today as part of the scoping process into the Border Patrol request for land on Castner Range. Due to the ecological significance of Castner Range, there are important factors that must be considered before deciding to develop these sensitive areas.

Castner Range is an area that up until the 1970's was used as a military firing range. At that point, the military declared the area out of use. Up to 95% of this area contains unexploded ordinances left over from the military's use of this land. Due to these military remains, much of this land has remained untouched for close to 35 years. Many canyons and other natural habitats support a wide variety of wildlife native to this area. Castner Range has the highest biological diversity in the El Paso area, a region with limited wildlife habitat. Castner Range is also an important watershed and water infiltration site. The addition of hardscapes to this area will cause a decrease in water infiltration and lower the water table, while increasing erosion and run-off. In addition, because of its pristine appearance, Castner Range is the most scenic and beautiful part of the Franklin Mountains. Two alternative sites have been named in the site selection process. These two sites are Highway 54 and McCombs as well as the intersection of McCombs and Sean Haggerty. My line of work promotes and works toward the restoration of natural areas like Castner Range. By opening this area to development it will set a precedent and give impetus for others to further fragment an ecologically sensitive area.

For these reasons, it is my strong desire and professional opinion that Castner Range is left undeveloped. I urge you to look at all the information concerning this issue and find that development on Castner Range would be damaging to the ecological integrity and the aesthetic beauty of this area. Please choose an alternative site for the Border Patrol's use. Thank you for your time and if there is any further question you may have please contact my office at (915) 834-7070.

Sincerely,

Lois Balin, Urban Wildlife Biologist
 Texas Parks and Wildlife

*To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas for the
 use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

Sections 3.4.2.1

3.1.1.1

Nov. 20, 2001

Dear Robin Divine,

Here are my thoughts on the proposed Border Patrol Station on Casner Range. My first reaction is "why" when they acknowledge there are other options. Yes, houses have been built up the mountain, miles along Patriot Highway are already trashed and the Border Patrol Museum is an eyesore, so what's the big deal? We know how fragile our environment is so I'm not going to belabor the harm the noise, construction and inevitable extended modifications will do. Aren't these people living here and raising their children here? Don't they get spoiled when millions of spring Poppies bloom? Don't they get a thrill seeing the range day and night in all weathers. Maybe they just take out of town visitors over Trans. Mts

once a year but might not their
children want to see the rock art, the
rocks of ages, the wildlife and plants?
This project will be harmful. We have
the facts and know better so why do
we continue not to care?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Bertze Baintart
2200 Febrero
El Paso, Tx. 79935
915-592-3651

20 November 2001

Science Applications International Corporation
4242 Woodcock #150
San Antonio, TX 78228

attn: Robin Devine, Project Manager

This letter is written to provide my input on the proposed development of 40 acres of Castner Range for a Border Patrol station. I would urge that the site on Castner Range not be approved for the following reasons.

El Paso has grown tremendously in the last 20 years. As the City expanded, significant portions of lower elevation wildlife and plant habitat was consumed around the mountain. This is especially evident on the Westside of El Paso. Castner Range is one of the last large parcels of land containing this type of habitat having a good chance of being added to Franklin Mountains State Park. The area proposed for the Border Patrol station would eliminate more of this dwindling habitat.

One of the most alluring characteristics of Castner Range is the expansive views this open space provides residents and visitors. The construction of the station and potential expansion for a Sector Center would adversely impact the visual appeal of this land and reduce its ability to inspire people.

Sections 4.10.1
4.10.2.1

If the Border Patrol is allowed to build its offices on Castner Range before a decision is made about whether or not it will become part of Franklin Mountains State Park it will set a precedent that will undoubtedly permit more of the Range to be engulfed by urban sprawl.

3.1.1.1

Additionally, since the land has not been surveyed for, and cleared of unexploded ordinances nor surveyed for archeological sites, the cost of making this land safe for building and monitoring it for early habitation will be substantial compared to other locations that could be considered.

3.9.2.1

From the information I have been provided, there are two proposed alternative sites. In reviewing them, it is clear to me that from a logistical standpoint, Site #2 on McCombs at Highway 54 provides the same ready access to Highway 54 as Site #1 but would have no impact on Castner Range and would not have the concern about unexploded ordinances or archeological sites.

I would also like to suggest that two sites along the Border Highway be considered. One is a large parcel on Yarborough Dr. at the Border Highway, the other is the cotton fields where the Border Highway intersects Americas Ave. at the Zaragosa Bridge. Both of these sites have easy access to the border levees along the river and would reduce urban sprawl and loss of open space by infilling within already developed areas of the city.

2.4

Castner Range has great potential to become an important addition to Franklin Mountains State Park and the social and environmental fabric of El Paso. With other viable options that will not impact this vast tract of land I would urge you to eliminate the Castner Range site from consideration for the proposed Border Patrol Station.

Sincerely yours,



Scott Cutler
112 Colina Alta
El Paso, TX 79912

November 20, 2001

Science Applications International Corporation
4242 Woodcock #50
San Antonio, TX 78228

ATTENTION: Robin Devine

Thank you for your invitation to participate in the scoping process regarding the proposed site on Castner Range for the Border Patrol Station and future Sector Headquarters. I have shared your letter with members of the El Paso/Trans-pecos Audubon Society and invited individual responses regardless of the position taken. This is in keeping with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act – to hear opinions of all.

I am opposed to the use of this site for the following reasons:

- ◆ Since the establishment of the Franklin Mountains Wilderness Park, El Paso citizens have expressed the expectation that some day the Castner Range, when cleared of ordinance, would become a part of this magnificent and unique park.
- ◆ The encroachment on this land by building a Border Patrol Station would lead eventually to other encroachments and ultimately destroy this unique area.
- ◆ The Castner Range has geological features, fossils, rare plants, wildlife, and even springs. This ecological balance would be in danger of being destroyed forever.

Section 3.1.1.1

3.2

3.3

3.4

We must be forward looking and consider the quality of life the generations that come after us will have. Destroying just a small part of this unique area will be just a beginning in further reducing an area, which we are able to and should preserve. Please consider other sites, which have less of an environmental impact.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Sincerely,



Betty E. Fisbeck
613 W. Sunset Rd.
El Paso, TX 79922

November 20, 2001

Robin Divine, Project Manager SAIC
4242 Woodcock
Suite 150
San Antonio, TX 78228

Re: The proposed Border Patrol station should not be built on El Paso's Castner Range.

Dear Ms.(Mr.) Divine:

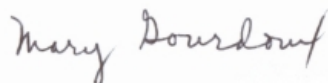
I do not believe the Border Patrol station should be built on the Castner Range. Instead, one of the alternative sites would be more appropriate.

Perhaps El Paso's most distinctive feature is the Franklin Mountain range. Once the slopes are developed, the sweeping majestic view will be gone. How fortunate it is to have undeveloped land in the middle of the city. People on vacation most often visit the ocean or the mountains. They may not know why, but scientist believe viewing an expanse of mountains or ocean actually is relaxing and rejuvenating.

There are other worthy alternative sites available such as the northwest corner of Highway 54 and McCombs and the southeast corner of McCombs and Sean Haggerty. Either of these locations would allow us to keep that majestic sweep up to the Franklin Mountains.

Perhaps there are more worthy reason why we shouldn't build on Castner Range. But I believe maintaining the beauty of the mountains will continue over the years to have a positive emotional effect on the citizens of El Paso.

Best regards,



Mary Gourdoux
Retired school teacher
4605 Charlotte Court
El Paso, TX 79924

11/20/01

Robin Divine
Project Manager, SAIC
4242 Woodstock, #150
San Antonio, TX 78228

Dear Robin,

El Paso has so few aesthetic resources, that when one of them is endangered, it is a very big deal. Such is the situation with the proposed Border Patrol Station / Sector Headquarters site on the Castner Range.

Since there are three possible sites which have been identified, I am writing to request that you choose one of the other 2, preferably site #2, on the northwest corner of Mc Combs Street and Highway 54.

By leaving the Castner Range as it is, you leave us a source of great civic pride, and enable us to pursue having it become a part of the wonderful Franklin Mountain State Park. Please leave our ecology intact, and the aesthetic contribution alive.

Sincere regards,
Linda McClain
Education Director
El Paso Opera Company

El Paso Archaeological Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4345

El Paso, Texas 79914-4345

(915) 751-3295



Dear Bob,

My membership has asked me to voice our opinion of the Border Patrol Station location. We prefer site #2, secondly site #3. Site #1 seems ridiculous, with ordinance clearing, rock rubble, endangered flora + fauna, etc.

Thank You

Jeffrey C. Waacke

President

P.S. Pardon my handwriting but I just lost my printer!

A NONPROFIT TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

Connie J. Walsh
3277 Mountain Walk Dr.
El Paso, Texas 79904

Robin Divine
SAIC Project Manager
4242 Woodcock Dr. Suite 150
San Antonio, Texas 78228

November 20, 2001

Dear Ms. Divine:

I am writing today in response to your letter dated October 24, 2001 to Mr. Stan Stack of the El Paso Wilderness Coalition. As a long time resident of El Paso I have always been willing to work toward the goal that the Castner Range area will one day become a state park on a grander scale than Central Park is in New York. This unique area with its diverse plant life and wild life offer educational opportunities for thousands of school children as well as tourists. Nature trails for hiking would be developed and maintained through the state park system. This area is part of the Chihuahuan Desert and has many ecosystems that need protection NOT development. I could send you reams of research and will if you request that material.

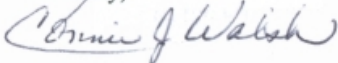
In your October 24th letter you requested in put. As an alternative I would like to suggest that you consider Area 2 McCombs and highway 54. This site is a better alternative in that millions of taxpayers dollars will not be spent clearing unexploded ordnance, as will have to be done on Castner Range. Also access to both North and South areas of town can be accomplished by highway 54 or the Railroad street route if quick access is needed for Ft. Bliss or the airport. The land is Area 2 offers future expansion. The terrain in Area 2 is a sandy/clay mix and would not require nearly the expense of preparation that the Castner Range site will require and this will keep cost down.

Sections 2.4

3.3.3.1

In closing I would like to state that the city has long planned for Castner Range to join the Franklin Mountains State Park. As a citizen that has been my desire and expectation. Thank you for considering these thoughts. Please keep me informed as you conduct the environmental analysis of the Border Patrol proposal. Please send me copies of any scoping reports, environmental studies, or notices to attend meetings in El Paso about this proposal.

Sincerely,



Connie J. Walsh
3277 Mountain Walk Dr.
El Paso, Texas 79904
(915) 755-8467

November 20, 2001

Robin Divine
Project Manager, SAIC
4242 Woodstock, #150
San Antonio, TX 78228

Dear Robin,

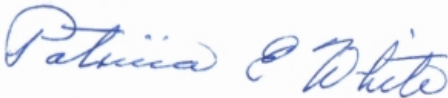
I understand that the Border Patrol is trying to purchase land in El Paso for construction and operation of a Border Patrol Station and future Sector Headquarters. Their preferred site is in the Castner Range at the northwest corner of Hondo Pass Drive and Highway 54 with a second choice site at the northwest corner of McCombs St and Highway 54. I also understand that your company, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), is preparing the environmental assessment for them.

I would prefer that the Border Patrol choose their second choice site. This site would still give them direct access to highway 54 without destroying the beauty of the Castner Range. The fields of poppies on the side of the Franklin Mountains coming down to highway 54 are spectacular in the springtime and must be preserved. The ecological and scenic value of the Franklin Mountains and Castner Range are unique and beautiful with the lower elevations being just as important as the upper elevations. Development of the west side of highway 54 along the Franklin's impinges on this area as well as blocking the view from highway 54 which allows us all to see this beauty. The Castner Range should be a part of the Franklin Mountain State Park.

Sections 4.10.2
4.10.2.1

Thank you for considering my views.

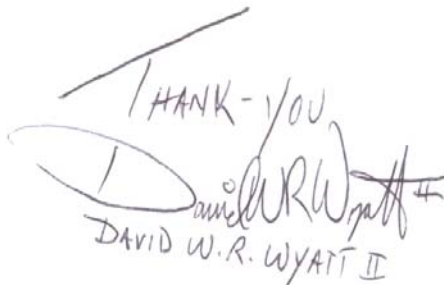
Sincerely,



Patricia E. White
10525 Texwood
El Paso, TX 79925

20 NOV 81

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO VOICE MY CONCERN FOR US ONCE AGAIN BUILDING IN AREAS, WHICH MAKE THIS AREA SO ATTRACTIVE TO VISITORS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS. IF WE JUST STAND BY AND LET THIS HAPPEN WE WILL BE TAKING AWAY THE VERY BEAUTY THAT WE ENJOY SO MUCH. SO MANY OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED WHAT WE HAVE, UNTIL IT IS GONE. IT IS TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING AT THAT TIME. LET US DO IT NOW, AND PERSUADE THE BORDER PATROL TO BUILD WHERE IT WILL IMPACT US LEAST. SELECTION OF THE #2 SITE WILL SERVE THE BORDER PATROL AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE. A MAP IS ENCLOSED FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

THANK-YOU

DAVID W.R. WYATT II



El Paso, Texas
The International City

JOHN F. COOK
CITY REPRESENTATIVE
NORTHEAST DISTRICT

November 21, 2001

Robin Divine
Project Manager for SAIC
4242 Woodcock #150
San Antonio, Texas 78228

Re: U.S. Border Patrol Station &
Sector Headquarters
Location, El Paso, Texas

Dear Robin Divine:

In response to the Scoping Process (NEPA) required relative to the proposed Castner Range Location, I submit the following:

The two alternative sites are twice the distance in miles and time from the BOTA Port of Entry, as compared to the Castner Site. They are also twice as far from the Border Patrol's Montana Detention Facility as compared to the Castner Site.

Sections 2.1.3
2.1.4

The two alternative City-Owned sites must be appraised and sold at a fair market value, according to State Law, unless eminent domain action was taken to secure the sites. Zoning and City Codes would have to be adhered to because the sites are inside the City Limits. The Castner site, already owned by the U.S. and controlled by the G.S.A. could be transferred to the Border Patrol at minimal cost.

3.1.1.1
3.1.1.2
3.1.1.3
2.4

The Castner site is impacted by the existence of certain small arms Ordinances remaining, which would be cleaned prior to acquisition and thus the environment of the site would be improved. The alternative sites however, if developed, would be downgraded from their present undisturbed natural state.

Support facilities, such as restaurants, medical facilities, banks, convenience shopping and automobile servicing are almost non-existent within two miles from the alternative sites. These two sites are not consistent with the present El Paso Mayor's expressed "Anti-Urban Sprawl" position. In contrast, the Castner site fits well into the infill development philosophy of the Mayor and Planning Department of the City of El Paso.

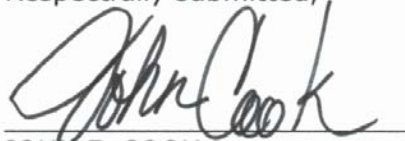
3.1.1.1
3.1.1.2
3.1.1.3

Last, but not least, the animals of the mounted patrol would be in an environment (mountain foothills) conducive to training goals and situations encountered by the mounted patrol. The site is buffered by wilderness, a freeway and a Texas Department of Transportation maintenance facility. Across the freeway is the Texas National Guard El Paso Facility.

Section 3.1.1.1

I am submitting this letter in my capacity as City Representative for the Northeast District. Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss this.

Respectfully submitted,



JOHN F. COOK
City Representative
District IV

cc: Hon. Raymond Caballero
Mayor, City of El Paso

Mr. John Cook
City Representative, Northeast District
El Paso, Texas

Mr. Luis Barker
Chief, U.S. Border Patrol
El Paso Sector
8901 Montana Avenue
El Paso, Texas 79925

November 21, 2001

Robin Divine
Project Manager for SAIC
4242 Woodcock #150
San Antonio, Texas 78228

Re: U.S. Border Patrol Station &
Sector Headquarters Location
El Paso Texas Sector

Dear Robin DiVine:

In response to the Scoping Process (NEPA) required relative to the proposed Castner Range Location, I submit the following:

The two alternative sites are twice the distance in miles and time from the BOTA Port of Entry, as compared to the Castner Site. They are also twice as far from the Border Patrol's Montana Detention Facility as compared to the Castner Site.

The two alternative City-Owned sites must be appraised and sold at a fair market value, according to State Law, unless eminent domain action was taken to secure the sites. Zoning and City Codes would have to be adhered to because the sites are inside the City Limits. The Castner site, already owned by the U.S. and controlled by the G.S.A. could be transferred to the Border Patrol at minimal cost.

The Castner site is impacted by the existence of certain small arms Ordinances remaining, which would be cleaned prior to acquisition and thus the environment of the site would be improved. The alternative sites however, if developed, would be downgraded from their present undisturbed natural state.


Support facilities, such as restaurants, medical facilities, banks, convenience shopping and automobile servicing are almost non-existent within two miles from the alternative sites. These two sites are not consistent with the present El Paso Mayor's expressed "Anti-Urban Sprawl" position. In contrast, the Castner site fits well into the infill development philosophy of the Mayor and Planning Department of the City of El Paso.

Last, but not least, the animals of the mounted patrol would be in an environment (mountain foothills) conducive to training goals and situations encountered by the mounted patrol. The site

is buffered by wilderness, a freeway and a Texas Department of Transportation maintenance facility. Across the freeway is the Texas National Guard El Paso Facility.

I am submitting this letter as a private citizen. I am qualified by my experience and my present Chairmanship of the El Paso City Planning Commission. I am also Chairman of the Castner Range Oversight Sub-Committee of the Planning Commission.

Respectfully submitted,


JOE WEISSMILLER
3021 Park North Drive
El Paso, Texas 79904

cc: Hon. Raymond Caballero
Mayor, City of El Paso

Mr. John Cook
City Representative, Northeast District
El Paso, Texas

Mr. Luis Barker
Chief, U.S. Border Patrol
El Paso Sector
8901 Montana Avenue
El Paso, Texas 79925

November 21, 2001

Robin Devine, Project Manager
SAIC
4242 Woodcock, Suite 150
San Antonio, Texas 78228

Re: Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment for Proposed Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters,
El Paso, Texas

Attention: Robin Devine

The Franklin Mountains are a very important part of El Paso's ecology and scenic environment. The mountains have a unique habitat (both animal and plant life) to any other place in the world. Both lower and upper elevations of the Franklin Mountains are of equal value. Forty acres of the lower elevations of land of the Castner Range will be needed to build the proposed Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters.

The Castner Range has remained mostly untouched because of the stewardship of the Army and its presence of unexploded ordnance around it. I am concerned that, little by little, the lands of the Castner Range will be used up completely. We should give considerable thought to how the Castner Range should be used. The Public should be completely involved in an extensive evaluation of how the land should be used in the future.

Sections 3.1.1.1

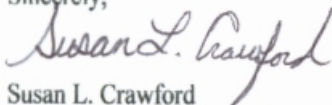
We will do our city inhabitants and out of city visitors an injustice to not be able to enjoy the splendor of the Castner Range in the future. Building on the Castner Range will have an irreversible bad effect on the environment of the Northwest part of El Paso. The Castner Range is delightful, useful, and splendid as it is now.

Putting the Border Patrol Headquarters on the Castner Range would be capricious and poor land use planning. A comprehensive study needs to be implemented immediately. The National Environment Policy Act requirements would not be considered otherwise and building on the land would have a terrible future impact. Fort Bliss and its Restoration Advisory Board should initiate such a study with the Army Corps of Engineers.

4.1.1
4.1.2.1

Thank you in advance for consideration of this issue. I would appreciate being kept informed of the environmental analysis of the Border Patrol proposal. Copies of scoping reports, EA's, or other information would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Susan L. Crawford

As an El Paso citizen, I am concerned for the Castner Range. Please do not allow this natural treasure to be squandered.

Security along our border is essential and should be among our many priorities. Balancing the needs of El Paso and El Pasoans is a great challenge, but we must not forfeit the natural world ~~sur~~ around us without serious consideration of the consequences.

I support site #2 on the corner of McCombs and HWY 54.

Thank you,

Marcia Wyatt

TO: ROBIN DIVINE, PROJ. MAN. — EL PASO, 22. NOV. 2001
SAIC
4242 WOODCOCK, SUITE 150
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78228

FROM: PETER BESTE
3008 TITANIC
EL PASO, TX 79904

RE: SITE FOR A NEW BORDER PATROL STATION
IN EL PASO.

DEAR SIR:

I AM WRITING YOU THIS SHORT NOTE TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN ABOUT ONE OF THE 3 PLANNED BORDER PATROL STATION LOCATIONS. SITE # 1 IS ON CASTNER RANGE WEST OF HIGHWAY 54. THIS LOCATION IS ON THE EASTERN ALLUVIAL PLANE OF OUR FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS. A DEVELOPMENT THERE WOULD PERMANENTLY ALTER AN EXCEPTIONAL VIEW OF THE FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS AND DESTROY UNIQUE PLANT-LIFE AT THAT LOCATION.

I WOULD NOT HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS TO BUILDING SITES # 2 AND # 3.

BEST REGARDS -

Peter Beste

Sections 4.10.1
4.10.2.1

NOVEMBER 23, 2001

HUGH JAMESON
7817 BIG BEND DR
EL PASO TX 79904 3519

SCIENCE APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CORP.
4242 WOODCOCK DR. STE. 150
SAN ANTONIO TX 78828 1253

RE: PROPOSED BORDER PATROL SECTOR H.Q. EL PASO TX

DEAR ROBIN DIVINE:

I AM A LIFE LONG EL PASOAN WHO HAS, FOR THE PAST 41 YEARS, RESIDED NEAR THE PROPOSED SECTOR HEADQUARTER SITE THAT THE U. S. BORDER PATROL WISHES TO USE. IF THIS SITE WERE NOT PRESENTLY PUBLICLY OWNED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THE BORDER PATROL WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERING THIS LOCATION BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ACQUIRED AT FAIR MARKET VALUE. INSTEAD WE AS TAXPAYERS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY THE REMEDIATION COSTS TO CLEAN UP THE SITE WHICH IS PRESENTLY POSTED BECAUSE THE U.S. MILITARY USED THE SITE AS GUNNERY RANGE AS RECENTLY AS THE 1960'S. IN NORTHEAST EL PASO THIS SITE WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE AS WILDLIFE HABITAT ON THE FOOTHILLS OF OUR FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS BECAUSE NO COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE WOULD EVER BE INTERESTED IN PAYING THE COST TO CLEAN IT UP AND DEVELOP THE SITE. IT IS BETTER THAT THE SITE REMAIN UNUSED. NEARBY RESIDENTS ARE CONCERNED THAT SECTOR HEADQUARTERS FOR THE BORDER PATROL WILL RESULT IN NOISE AND LIGHT POLLUTION 24 HOURS PER DAY. WE ARE FEARFUL THAT THE BORDER PATROL USE WILL INCLUDE A DETENTION FACILITY AS WELL AS MOTOR POOL MAINTENANCE FACILITY. IF THE BORDER PATROL USE WERE LIMITED TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES SUCH USE WOULD BE FAR LESS INTRUSIVE AND DISRUPTIVE TO AREA RESIDENTS. THE PRESENT SITE NOW USED BY THE BORDER PATROL DOES NOT PRESENT THE SAME KIND OF RESIDENTIAL CONCERNS. HOWEVER, THAT PRESENT LOCATION HAS FAR MORE COMMERCIAL VALUE TO THE NEARBY AIRPORT AUTHORITY.

Sections 2.4

4.10.2.1

1.2.2

3.1.1.1

THERE ARE OTHER LOCATIONS NEARER TO THE BORDER THAN ANY OF THE THREE PROPOSED SITES IN NORTHEAST EL PASO WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE NEGATIVE RAMIFICATIONS TO LOCAL AREA RESIDENTS. THE OTHER TWO NORTHEAST AREA LOCATIONS REPRESENT TAX BASE ENHANCEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO IF THEY ARE DEVELOPED FOR RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL USES. PRESENTLY THOSE TWO LOCATIONS ARE OWNED BY THE PUB. SVC. BOARD WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY RELEASE THE SITES FOR MORE PRODUCTIVE TAX BASE USES RATHER THAN A NON PRODUCTIVE GOVERNMENTAL USE.

2.4

LOCATIONS ALONG THE U.S. MEXICO BORDER IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO OR ALONG THE RIO GRANDE RIVER IN SOUTHEAST EL PASO COUNTY MAKE MORE SENSE FROM AN OPERATIONAL STANDPOINT THAN DO THE PROPOSED SITES IN NORTHEAST EL PASO.

SINCERELY,


HUGH JAMESON

PHONE 915 751 7952 , FAX 915 757 0130 , E-MAIL HUGHJ@DZN.COM

Mrs. Werner R. Mattersdorff
3334 Zion Lane, # J-5
El Paso, TX 79904

Tel: 915-757-3521 / Fax: 915-757-1496

November 23rd., 2001

Robin Divine
Project Manager, SAIC
4242 Woodstock, #150
San Antonio, TX 78228

Dear Robin,

Forgive my addressing you thusly, but I was not informed whether sir or madam was appropriate. I know Robins of both genders.

I am yet another El Pasoan who is very concerned about the preservation of Castner Range, with hope of its eventual transfer to the Franklin Mountain State Park.

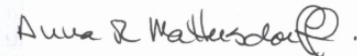
When I first heard of the U.S. Border Patrol's plan to barge into El Paso and despoil one of our most scenic corners for their facilities, I was astounded. Nowadays, in 2001, it is considered unsophisticated of a city to allow its scenic areas to be despoiled, and it is considered ignorant of an outsider to bluster in with that intention. I agree that the El Paso City Government has been far too lenient with what they have allowed to be built, and to operate unhindered, on their land. However, it is very wrong for the U.S. Border Patrol to take advantage of that unsophistication.

Their first choice, the northeast corner of Hondo Pass and Highway 54, gives the most beautiful and uplifting view of the Castner Range and the Franklin Mountains as they extend northward. Many of us purposely drive up Gateway North from Hondo Pass (parallel to Highway 54) just so we can see our mountains while on the way to do our errands. You should see the Castner Range covered with golden poppies in the spring, as well as the flowering cactus.

There is other land available in El Paso. I know this for a fact. Why descend upon a city and choose the most scenic spot? Is it just a power play? Surely we have moved beyond that and have matured into a society that respects and works with nature, rather than against it, and against the people who value a natural tradition and want to preserve it for the children.

Please respect the preservation of Castner Range and Franklin Mountain State Park. I could enclose a page of quotes from our beloved naturalists like John Muir, and photographers of nature like Ansel Adams, but you probably know them.

Yours sincerely,



Anna R. Mattersdorff

Robin Divine, Project Manager SAIC
4242 Woodcock
Suite 150
San Antonio, TX 78228

Nov. 23, 2001

Dear Mr. Divine,

I am a teacher and counselor who has lived in El Paso for nearly 40 years. Recently I became aware of the Border Patrol's interest in locating a station and/or sector headquarters on Castner Range in El Paso. Despite the vital importance of the Border Patrol in our region and the validity of its needs, it is my opinion that other locations would be better for building construction than the choice of Castner Range.

El Pasoans have a unique, multi-faceted relationship with the Franklin Mountains, including the Castner Range area. The Franklins help to define our image, affecting everything from our weather to the personality of our neighborhoods. Local historians, politicians, scientists, and others offer many professional perspectives on how to use the mountains' resources.

What I have observed, however, is the relationship that exists between the Franklins and the "ordinary citizens"--families of the children I have taught over the years-- El Pasoans who work hard and are often unaware of decisions that may affect their quality of life. Many times, these people believe their opinions would not be considered, even if they were offered.

For El Paso families, the Franklin slopes meet multiple needs. The mountains provide stress relief, outdoor classrooms, physical fitness, picnic areas, wildlife, gardens, and religious retreats, just to name a few. El Paso children relate many of their concerns for the environment to the mountain slopes. Most of the citizens I meet believe that the Castner Range area is already part of the Franklin Mountains State Park, and when they are informed otherwise, they express the opinion that it should be part of the park.

Although some might argue that development on Castner would have no significant negative impact, I believe the reality is otherwise. A precedent would be set, resources would be lost, and a decision would be made that could have an on-going adverse impact on El Paso's quality of life. It is my sincere hope that other locations, such as those in the McCombs area, will be selected.

Sincerely,

Zeoma Olszewski
Zeoma Olszewski
9526 Roanoke
El Paso, TX 79924

Robin Devine
Project Manager, SAIC
4242 Woodstock #150
San Antonio TX 78228.

Dear Robin Devine

I am writing to ask you to please reconsider the plans for a Border Patrol Facility on the Castner Range. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of sites in El Paso that are at least equally suitable, without making such a profound and negative impact on the environment. The Castner Range is an extremely valuable urban resource, an irreplaceable treasure. Please don't put it at risk.

Section 2.4

Sincerely

Stephen A. Pugh
715 Cincinnati Ave.
El Paso TX 79902

November 24, 2001

Robin Devine, Project Manager
SAIC
4242 Woodcock, Suite 150
San Antonio, TX 78228

FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS



WILDERNESS COALITION

Re: Scoping Comments
Environmental Assessment for Proposed Border Patrol
Station and Future Sector Headquarters, El Paso, TX

Dear Robin Devine:

The Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition consists of 15 organizations and numerous individuals united in their concern for the Franklins Mountains in Texas and New Mexico. We are particularly concerned about the future of Castner Range, the closed military firing range on the east side of these mountains. The Border Patrol proposes to build a new station and sector headquarters on Castner Range. As part of scoping for the Environmental Assessment (EA) on that proposal, we submit the following comments.

Importance of Castner Range

Thanks to the stewardship of the Army and the presence of unexploded ordnance, Castner Range has remained relatively pristine as development has occurred around it. The range is a treasure in its current natural state. It includes some of the most ecologically significant and scenic parts of the Franklin Mountains.

In 1998, Parsons Engineering Science, at the request of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, prepared an Ordnance and Explosive (OE) Characterization and Cost Analysis Report for Castner Range. That report evaluated alternatives for clean-up of the range and for future use of these lands. Regarding future land use, it concluded:

It is recommended that the entire site be transferred to the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for an annex to the Franklin Mountains State Park. The Park system is very interested in annexing all of Castner Range because the eastern portion is a unique high prairie grassland which is uncommon due to commercial/residential development in El Paso. The existence of Castner Range has preserved

THE FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS COALITION

Borderland Mountain Bike Association • Chihuahuan Desert Wildlife Rescue • El Paso Archaeological Society • El Paso Cactus and Rock Club • El Paso Native Plant Society • El Paso Regional Group of the Sierra Club • El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society • El Paso Wilderness Preservation Committee • El Paso Women's Political Caucus • Friends of the Franklins • League of Women Voters of El Paso • Mesilla Valley Audubon Society • Mountain Park Community Association • Photography Enthusiasts of El Paso • Southern New Mexico Group of the Sierra Club.

Robin Devine
November 24, 2001
Page 2

an impressive natural corridor from the crest of the Franklin Mountains to its foothills and provides a unique opportunity to experience the natural ecosystem of the area in close proximity to the population center of El Paso, Texas. In addition, the City of El Paso's 2010 Land Use Plan includes Castner Range as a part of the Franklin Mountains State Park because they realize that the tract of land is very desirable for the Park, and feel that there is more than adequate land within the immediate proximity of El Paso for growth into the next century.

Sections 2.4

We agree wholeheartedly with this recommendation.

In terms of contributing to ecological uniqueness and scenic beauty, it is critical to keep in mind that the lower elevations of Castner Range are just as important as the upper elevations. The proposed Border Patrol station, if built on Castner Range, would require 40 acres of those lower-elevation lands.

Need for a Comprehensive Evaluation of Castner Range

Our greatest concern regarding the Border Patrol proposal is that it represents a piecemeal approach to disposition of lands on Castner Range. Before any decisions are made about disposition of Castner Range lands -- to the Border Patrol or anyone else -- we should be taking a careful, comprehensive look at the entire range and the most appropriate future use of these lands.

3.1.1.1

Without such a study, a decision to move forward with the Border Patrol proposal would represent poor land-use planning. It would set a bad precedent and encourage others to pursue piecemeal development of Castner Range lands. The decision would also likely fail to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act due to inadequate consideration of cumulative impacts.

Additional Issues and Concerns

In the EA, please evaluate each alternative with respect to these issues and concerns:

Contribution to regional biodiversity. Today, Franklin Mountains State Park, the Organ/Franklin Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and Castner Range form a wildland complex that contributes importantly to conserving the biological diversity of the Paso del Norte region. Any reduction in size reduces the ability of this complex to support its full complement of native plant and animal species.

3.2

The lower elevations of Castner Range are particularly important. Everywhere else surrounding the Franklin Mountains, the lower elevations have either been built on or are excluded from protected status to accommodate future development. These lower-elevation lands, primarily alluvial fans, support distinctive plant and animal communities. Castner Range is El Paso's only opportunity to protect a meaningful example of these landforms in their natural state.

Robin Devine
November 24, 2001
Page 3

Scenic impacts. Today, observers looking west across Castner Range from the Patriot Freeway enjoy a beautiful unobstructed view of all three mountain zones, from alluvial fan, to foothill to upper slope. Nowhere else in El Paso do we have an opportunity to preserve a view of this breadth and quality for future generations. What would be the impact of a Border Patrol station and sector headquarters on this scenic resource? What would be the impact of any future development that might follow due to the precedent set by the Border Patrol facilities?

Sections 4.10.1
4.10.2.1

Compatibility with Management Plan for Franklin Mountains State Park. Texas Parks and Wildlife views Castner Range as a key potential addition to Franklin Mountains State Park due to its rich biological resources, dramatic scenery and outstanding recreational potential. Addition of Castner Range, particularly the lower elevations, would significantly enhance and round out the Park's biological diversity, adding plant and animal associations otherwise not well represented in the Park.

Growth-inducing impacts. The proposed station and sector headquarters, wherever located, would likely foster additional development. On Castner Range, the impacts would be highly negative. Growth could be better accommodated at other sites, with a resulting greater positive economic stimulus.

3.1.1.1

Site-preparation costs. Castner Range is undeveloped today because of the hazards associated with its previous use as a military firing range. Decontamination to the point where the land can be used safely for structures is a highly expensive undertaking. Alternatives off Castner Range do not have this added expense.

2.4

Project scope. Your letter requesting scoping input indicates the site the Border Patrol has proposed for a station consists of 40 acres on Castner Range. The letter also refers to a second facility, a future sector headquarters. Where would the sector headquarters be located relative to the station, and how much additional land would it require?

2.1.1

Alternatives

In the EA, we ask that you examine the alternative of deferring any action on the Border Patrol's proposal until a comprehensive study of Castner Range and appropriate future use of the range lands can be completed. The Army Corps of Engineers should work with Fort Bliss and its Restoration Advisory Board to initiate such a study, with full public involvement.

2.4
3.1.1.1

Of the three alternatives you are currently evaluating, we believe Alternative 2 (NW corner of U.S. 54 and McCombs) is the best site for the proposed station and sector headquarters. It:

- offers ready access to a major highway, U.S. 54, linked directly to the international border;
- does not conflict with existing developed neighborhoods;
- can serve as a stimulus for future economic development in that portion of northeast El Paso; and

4.1.2.1

Robin Devine
November 24, 2001
Page 4

- avoids the costs, environmental impacts and likely time delays associated with construction on Castner Range.

Section 2.4

We believe other potential sites also deserve evaluation. We understand the Army Corps of Engineers conducted a "site market survey" that identified seven potential sites for the proposed station and future sector headquarters. Where were those sites, and what were the criteria for deciding not to evaluate some of them in the EA?

2.4

One alternative we believe deserves consideration is placement of the Border Patrol facilities on Biggs Army Air Field near other secured law-enforcement support facilities, such as those of Joint Task Force 6 and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Another is placement on former Castner Range lands east of the Patriot Freeway.

Need for an Environmental Impact Statement

Given the high environmental significance of Castner Range and the important precedent any decision on the Border Patrol proposal will set for the future of the range, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is needed to evaluate this proposal properly.

We do not believe an EIS would be needed if one of the alternatives off Castner Range were the preferred site for the Border Patrol facilities.

Thank you for considering these comments. Please keep us fully informed as you conduct the environmental analysis of the Border Patrol proposal. Please send us copies of any scoping reports, EAs or other documents you prepare as part of the analysis.

Very truly yours,



John Sproul
President
601 West Yandell Dr. #25
El Paso, TX 79902

Robin Devine
November 24, 2001
Page 5

c: Hon. Sylvestre Reyes, U.S. House of Representatives
Maj. Gen. Stanley E. Green, Commanding General, Ft. Bliss

Walt Dabney, Texas Parks and Wildlife
Delton Daugherty, Texas Parks and Wildlife
Carolina Ramos, Texas Parks and Wildlife
Reynaldo Sierra, Texas Parks and Wildlife

Hon. Ray Caballero, Mayor, City of El Paso
Hon. Jan Sumrall, City Representative, District 1
Hon. Rose Rodriguez, City Representative, District 2
Hon. Larry Medina, City Representative, District 3
Hon. John Cook, City Representative, District 4
Hon. Dan Power, City Representative, District 5
Hon. Paul Escobar, City Representative, District 6
Hon. Luis Sariñana, City Representative, District 7
Hon. Anthony Cobos, City Representative, District 8
Pat Adauto, Director, Dept. of Planning, City of El Paso

Re: Castner Range, El Paso, TX

11/25/01

To whom it may concern:

It has recently been brought to my attention that the Border Patrol is looking into purchasing 40 acres of land at the Southeast corner of Castner Range in El Paso, TX. As a live long El Pasoan and admirer of our beautiful mountains, I would hate to see Castner Range go the way of the rest of our foothills. El Paso has a jewel in our Franklin Mountains that I would imagine any large city would be so lucky to have. It is our responsibility to save this beauty so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy it just as we have. Our mountains need to be preserved in their natural state for all citizens of El Paso to enjoy. Whether you enjoy exploring its rich archeological sites, the plethora of native flora and fauna, or discovering some of the hidden treasures the Franklin Mountains offer.

I hope the committee will consider some of the alternative sights for the Border Patrol Headquarters and leave the mountains in the hands of the people that they belong to: The People of El Paso. 40 acres may seem like a small piece of a big mountain, but the scar will be huge, and more importantly this will open the door for further development. We appreciate your concern in this matter.

Brent Sanders
Concerned El Paso Resident

Section 3.1.1.1

DIAMOND RASH GORDON & JACKSON, P.C.

Tom Diamond
Norman J. Gordon*
Ronald L. Jackson
John R. Batoon
Robert J. Truhill
Josette Flores

Attorneys at Law
300 E. Main Street
Seventh Floor
El Paso, Texas 79901-1379

Tel.: 915-533-2277
Fax: 915-545-4623

Alan V. Rash
Of Counsel

November 26, 2001

*Board Certified - Civil Trial Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization

**VIA FAX NO. 210/731-2299 &
FIRST CLASS & CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
7000 1530 0003 3782 0328**

Science Applications International Corporation
4242 Woodcock Dr., Suite 150
San Antonio, Texas 78228-1253

Attention: Mr. Robin Divine, Project Manager

**Re: Environmental Assessment
Proposed Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters
El Paso, Texas**

Dear Mr. Divine:

This firm represents the Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, a federally recognized Native American Indian Tribe located in El Paso County, Texas (the "Pueblo").

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 24, 2001 in which you advised the Pueblo that your firm is preparing an Environmental Assessment to analyze the potential environmental effects that may result from the construction and operation of a new Border Patrol Station and Sector Headquarters in El Paso, Texas. The proposed site and the two alternative sites are located within the aboriginal claim area of the Pueblo. Accordingly, the Pueblo wishes to be consulted throughout each phase of this project. In addition, please provide the Pueblo with any and all archaeological data and reports relating to the three sites.

At a minimum, the Pueblo requests that it be notified at the time that excavation and construction occurs in order that it may have an opportunity to be present to observe excavation. In addition, if any cultural assemblages or funerary objects are encountered in the course of excavation or construction please contact the following individuals:

C:\MRCDOCS\TIGUA.GEN\CONSLTN\divine94-143.n26

Ricardo Quezada, War Captain
Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo
P.O. Box 17579
El Paso, Texas 79917

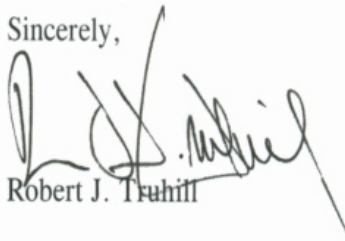
Adolph Greenberg, Ph.D.
Tribal Ethnographer
13 Tamara Ct.
Oxford, OH 45056

Robert J. Truhill, Esq.
Diamond Rash Gordon & Jackson, P.C.
300 E. Main Dr., 7th Floor
El Paso, Texas 79902

Enclosed herewith, please find the Pueblo's Consultation Policy.

Please contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Truhill

RJT/mrc
Enclosure

cc: Governor Albert Alvidrez
Lt. Governor Filbert Candelaria
Rick Quezada, Tribal War Captain
Adolph Greenberg, Ph.D., Tribal Ethnographer

(This page intentionally left blank.)